

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND SUBSISTENCE STEELHEAD HARVEST AND USE PATTERN Study 03-651

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), also known as *tayang*, in Haida and *Aasha't* in Tlingit, were harvested by Alaskan Tlingits and Haidas long before European contact. Steelhead continues to be harvested for subsistence use by residents of Prince of Wales Island. The most productive steelhead systems in southeast Alaska are in the southern half of the region especially Prince of Wales Island. Historically, steelhead were harvested by a variety of means, they were caught in weirs along with salmon and taken with gaffs, spears, and hand lines. More recently, approximately the last fifty years, steelhead have been taken for subsistence with rod and reel tackle. Steelhead were traditionally harvested in the winter as a source of fresh fish. Steelhead continue to be a source of fresh fish in the winter and early spring when salmon are not in the rivers and fresh fish can be difficult to obtain. Most Prince of Wales Island subsistence harvesters take between two and five steelhead a year, sharing harvests with family and friends. Steelhead are primarily eaten fresh, baked or fried. Steelhead are sometimes frozen, half smoked or pickled. Competition from a growing sport fishery is a concern of island residents.

Turek, M. F. 2005. Prince of Wales Island subsistence steelhead harvest and use pattern. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Subsistence Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Final Report for Study 03-651. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division, Juneau, Alaska.